

PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2007-2013

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURE OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION (TNC) UNDER LEADER AXIS

SECTION A: COUNTRY SPECIFIC DETAILS

1. Name of the programme:

Rural Development Programme of Molise Region

2. Number of LAGs:

3

3. Axes covered by LAGs:

Axis 2 – Measures 216, 227

Axis 3 – Measures 311, 312, 321, 322

4. Axes covered by TNC projects:

Axis 2 – Measures 216, 227

Axis 3 – Measures 311, 312, 321, 322

5. Total RDP budget for all the four axes (including EU+ public+ private expenditure):

EUR 283,398,564

Total budget for Leader axis:

EUR 12,925,066

Of which:

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|---------------------|-----|-----------|
| a. EU Funding: | EUR | 2,573,700 |
| b. Public funding: | EUR | 7,624,845 |
| c. Private funding: | EUR | 2,726,521 |

SECTION B: PROGRAMMING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECTS

1. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Budget for TNC projects (Total public funding: EU + public)	The budget allocated to measure 421 - "interterritorial and transnational cooperation" is EUR 1,255,977, which is 0.6% of the total RDP public funding budget. The funds have neither been pre-allocated to TNC projects nor to LAGs.
Responsibility for the management of the Budget (MAs or LAGs)	LAGs are responsible for managing the TNC budget.
Special budget for the preparatory technical support of TNC projects	A special budget for the preparation of TNC projects is not foreseen.

2. PROGRAMMING ASPECTS

Local Development Strategies and TNC	<p>The integration of Cooperation in local development strategy (LDS) is voluntary. However, the inclusion of cooperation is particularly rewarded, as it is considered a strategic priority for the LDS.</p> <p>LAGs demonstrate their interest to cooperate in specific thematic areas addressed by their LDS, describing the objectives, criteria, priorities and respective methods and approaches. An identification of partners is not required at this stage.</p>
Way of selecting cooperation projects	The MA will publish calls for submission of cooperation projects within one year from LDS approval. Calls will be issued at least once a year.
Main topics of TNC proposed for the 2007-2013 programming period	<p>The selected LDS address the following main themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of life; • Rural tourism.
Cooperation with third countries	For projects involving partners from outside the EU, the participation of at least three partners is mandatory, of which at least two must originate from and EU Member States.
Maximum/minimum number of TNC projects per LAG	Not specified.

3. COMMON PROVISIONS FOR TNC PROJECT APPROVAL

Information about procedures of approval and implementation of TNC projects	The approval process is still under consideration. The procedural approach will allow all LAGs to proceed to the identification of partners and the preparation of cooperation projects within the set time frame.
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<p>Eligibility criteria for cooperation projects</p>	<p>The project must respect the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For projects involving partners from outside the EU: the participation of at least three partners is mandatory, of which at least two must originate from EU Member States; 2. For projects involving partners from within the EU: the participation of at least two partners is mandatory; 3. The presence of a cooperation agreement, defining mutual commitments and relations among project partners; 4. The implementation of a joint action; 5. The identification of the lead partner, responsible for managing the project, selected according to article 39.1 of regulation (EC) 1974/2006. <p>Cooperation may be also open to local partnerships (according to article 59, letter (e) of regulation (EC) 1698/2005; public private partnership) and other local rural groups organised along the following main lines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Presence of a local group active in rural development, with the capacity to draw up a development strategy for a certain geographical territory; b) Organisation of a local group based on a partnership among local actors.
<p>Selection criteria for cooperation projects</p>	<p>The selection criteria indicated in the RDP are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The relevance and the degree of consistency with the strategic priorities of the RDP and the LDS; 2. The critical mass of the project and its sustainability; 3. The degree of definition and the presence of a concrete, jointly implemented action; 4. The validity of the methodology; 5. The transparency of the budget and the arrangements for managing the project; 6. The added value of the cooperation compared to the proposed strategy.
<p>Eligible activities of measure 421 Cooperation</p>	<p>The eligible activities, exclusively related to the joint action, are mostly non-material (e.g. feasibility studies, exchange of experiences and know-how, dissemination activities).</p>
<p>Typical examples of eligible costs for TNC projects</p>	<p>Only the following expenditure is eligible for financing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animation costs needed to define the partnership and to plan the joint action, within a limit equal to a maximum of 12% of the total cost; • Costs related to the implementation of the joint action, for the operation of a common structure and technical support to the implementation of the cooperation project.
<p>Specific documents concerning the cooperation partners required from LAGs</p>	<p>The procedure is still under consideration. However, in addition to the requirements established by the Guide for the implementation of the measure Cooperation under the Leader axis of rural development programmes 2007-2013, LAGs will have to complete a specific application form, providing detailed information and data.</p>
<p>The approval process of TNC applications</p>	<p>The 2011 call for proposals has been published. The deadline for submission is scheduled for April 14th, 2011.</p>

List of abbreviations:

EU:	European Union
LAG:	Local Action Group
LDS:	Local Development Strategy
MA:	Managing Authority
MS:	Member State
PA:	Paying Authority
TNC:	Transnational Cooperation
RDP:	Rural Development Programme